

Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 117938

R 190953Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3043

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T TEHRAN 8016

EXDIS

BEIRUT PLEASE PASS TO USINT BAGHDAD

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IR, IZ

SUBJ: IRAN-IRAQ RELATIONS; KURDISH MOVEMENT AND COMMUNISM

REF: TEHRAN 3538

1. AT AUDIENCE AFTERNOON AUGUST 18, SHAH STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY PRESIDENT BAKR TO RECEIVE THE IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WOULD BE VISITING TEHRAN IMMINENTLY. HE COMMENTED THAT HE COULD NOT FIGURE OUT WHAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ WANTED TO TALK WITH HIM ABOUT VIA THIS NEW CHANNEL. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, THE SHAH ASID HE WAS QUITE SURE THAT THE REQUEST TO RECEIVE THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD ORIGINATED WITH PRESIDENT BAKR AND NOT WITH VICE PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH IRAN-IRAQ RELATIONS, THE SHAH ADMITTED THAT HE HAD GOT VIRTUALLY NOWHERE IN HIS EFFORTS TO WORK WITH THE IRAQI AUTHORITIES IN EFFORTS TO KEEP THE KURDISH MOVEMENT OUT OF COMMUNIST HANDS (CF REFTEL). HE SAID HE HAS NOW BEEN GIVEN INFORMATION THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN IS MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT SOVIET EFFORTS TO TAKE OVER THE KURDS BUT NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR COLLABORATION HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM HIM. WHEN
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QUERIED AS TO WHERE THE KURDISH MOVEMENT WAS MOST NUMEROUS OUTSIDE OF THE IRAN-IRAQ-TURKEY AREA, THE SHAH REPLIED, "THE LARGEST GROUP IS IN PARIS, I BELIEVE, ALTHOUGH YOU FIND KURDS ALL OVER EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE

EAST." IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SHAH FEELS A CERTAIN
FRUSTRATION AT HIS INABILITY TO GET IRAQI COOPERATION
PARTICULARLY WHEN THE IRAQI AUTHORITIES ARE CLEARLY
CONCERNED ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNIST KURDISH
MOVEMENT.
HELMS

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